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LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1995 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

As President of the Security Council for the month of May 1995, I have the honour to send you the attached letter concerning the resources necessary for the operations of the Security Council, which the members of the Council asked me to transmit to you.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the appropriate distribution of this letter to the heads of the competent Secretariat services, in particular to Mr. Connor and Mr. Goulding. This document will also be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MÉRIMÉE
President of the Security Council

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Annex

RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The members of the Security Council have asked me to write to you about the staffing of the Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs, and about the resources allocated to servicing the meetings of the Council and its committees.

The members of the Council wish to stress the importance they attach to the quality of work provided to them by the Security Council Affairs Division, and the significance of this work in carrying out their responsibilities for ensuring prompt and effective action by the United Nations in order to maintain international peace and security. Council members have studied statistics which have been provided by the Secretariat concerning the change in recent years in the volume of activity of the Council in comparison with the resources and services made available to it in discharging its duties; they note that these resources have hardly increased, and have on occasion decreased, between 1987-1988 and 1993-1994, whereas the work of the Council has increased enormously. Council members express their concern in the face of this situation and wish to call for adequate staffing to enable the Council and its committees to function effectively.

We wish to stress the importance we attach to the work of the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch and its need of adequate staffing resources.

We welcome the recent increase in staff to support the sanctions committees, and look forward to a report in due course on whether this increase has decreased the backlog in processing applications to these committees.

We should like to stress the need for Council members to be able to use the official language of their choice in all of their work. This means that interpretation services should be adequate for the discharge of all of the Council's responsibilities.

With regard to the staffing of the Secretariat Services Branch of the Council Affairs Division and the provision of interpreters by Conference Services, Council members request the Secretary-General to take the appropriate and necessary measures to ensure fully adequate support services for the Council, taking into account the increase in the Council's workload over recent years.